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I hereby certify that this paper and every paper referred to therein as being enclosed is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 17, 2000 (Date of Deposit)

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Kevin M. GORMAN, David R. PATTERSON, Jeffrey M. LINNEN and Keming SONG

Serial No: 09/494,332                      Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
Filed: January 28, 2000                      Examiner: To Be Assigned

For: **OLIGONUCLEOTIDE PRIMERS FOR EFFICIENT MULTIPLEX DETECTION OF HEPATITIS C VIRUS (HCV) AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND METHODS OF USE THEREOF**

Honorable Commissioner of  
Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is Form PTO-1449, and copies<sup>1</sup> of the documents listed thereon. These documents

<sup>1</sup>To the extent that a document is listed and no copy of same is attached, then such document is not at the present time available to the undersigned or is available in the file of a parent application. If a listed document is not in the English language and an English translation is readily available, such translation is also attached; if translation is not

contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to allow the present application to issue as a patent.

In accordance with MPEP Sections 609 and 707.05(b), it is requested that each document cited (including any cited in applicant's specification which is not repeated on the attached Form PTO-1449) be given thorough consideration and that it be cited of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing on Form PTO-1449. Such initialing is requested even if the Examiner does not consider a cited document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection, or otherwise does not consider it to be prior art for any reason, or even if the Examiner does not believe that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with. This is requested so that each document becomes listed on the face of the patent issuing on the present application.

In addition to the (14) patent references listed in the accompanying PTO Form 1449, applicants also disclose several relevant web sites: [foodline.com](http://foodline.com); [citysearch.com](http://citysearch.com); and [food.com](http://food.com). These sites are interactive web sites. Accordingly, it is impossible to provide a comprehensive printout of the entire web site. An exemplary printout, as of April 21, 2000, of some of the functionality and features of these web sites is provided. These printouts are in no way to be construed as an exhaustive representation of the functionality of each web site. Instead, applicants encourage the Examiner to visit each web site to gain a better understanding of the functionality and features associated with each.

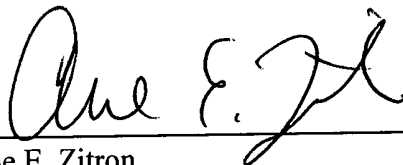
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attached it is not readily available to the undersigned. If a foreign language patent document is cited, and an English language equivalent is known to the undersigned, then such equivalent patent is also cited on the attached form along with the corresponding foreign language patent and a connecting arrow indicated therebetween; if no such English language equivalent is cited, then none is known to the undersigned.

The present Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR 1.56 insofar as an Examiner might consider any of the cited documents important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of each search, will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Early and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Anne E. Zitron  
Registration No. 41,391  
Agent for Applicants

DATED: July 17, 2000

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